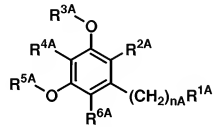
a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by general formula (IA):




**(IA)**

{wherein nA represents an integer of 0 to 5;

$R^{2A}$ represents phenyl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D);

$R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), carbamoyl, sulfamoyl, lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), heterocyclic-

carbonyl, or aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C);

$R^{4A}$ represents a hydrogen atom;

~~nA represents an integer of 0 to 5;~~

provided that;

(1) when nA is 0,

then $R^{1A}$ is ~~a hydrogen atom, methyl,~~ hydroxy, methoxy, carboxy, methoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, -$CONHCH_3$, -$CON(CH_3)_2$, -$CONHCH_2Ph$, propionyl, benzoyl, ~~dioxolanyl,~~ 1,3-dioxolan-2-yl, vinyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or prop-1-en-1-yl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B); and

~~and when $R^{1A}$ is a hydrogen atom,~~

~~then $R^{6A}$ is lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A);~~

~~when $R^{1A}$ is methyl, hydroxy, methoxy, carboxy, methoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, -$CONHCH_3$, -$CON(CH_3)_2$, -$CONHCH_2Ph$, propionyl, benzoyl, dioxolanyl, vinyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or prop-1-en-1-yl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B),~~

~~then~~ $R^{6A}$ is halogen; and ~~a halogen;~~

(2) when nA is an integer of 1 to 5,

then $R^{1A}$ is hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, halogen, lower alkyl substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkynyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), arylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), $-CONR^7R^8$ [wherein $R^7$ and $R^8$ independently represent a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), ~~heterocyclic~~ a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C) or aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C),

or $R^7$ and $R^8$ form a heterocyclic group together with the adjacent nitrogen atom, which is optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C)], $-NR^9R^{10}$ [wherein $R^9$ and $R^{10}$ independently represent a hydrogen atom, lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$ (wherein $R^{11}$ and $R^{12}$ have the same meanings as the above $R^7$ and $R^8$, respectively)], or $-OR^{13}$ [wherein $R^{13}$ represents lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent ~~(C)]~~ (C)]; and

$R^{6A}$ is a hydrogen atom, halogen, cyano, nitro, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), lower alkenyl optionally

substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkynyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), amino, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aryloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), aryl optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), or ~~a heterocyclic-alkyl~~ heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C);

~~and provided that;~~

wherein substituent (A) independently represents hydroxy, oxo, cyano, nitro, carboxy, carbamoyl, amino, hydroxyimino, lower alkoxyimino, halogen, lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkyl, lower alkanoyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, or lower alkanoylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B);

substituent (B) independently represents hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, amino, halogen, lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from

substituent (c), cycloalkyl, ~~lower alkanoy,~~ lower alkanoyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, lower alkylamino, or di-lower alkylamino;

substituent (C) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, amino, ~~caboxy,~~ carboxy, carbamoyl, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aralkyloxy, lower alkylsulfonyl, cycloalkyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, heterocyclic-carbonyl, lower alkylamino, di-lower alkylamino, lower alkanoyl, a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), or aryl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d);

substituent (D) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (e), lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (f), lower alkoxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aryloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aralkyloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), heterocyclic-alkyloxy optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower alkylsulfonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower

alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), cycloalkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkylsulfonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), arylsulfonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower alkanoylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), aroylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), lower alkylaminocarbonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), di-lower alkylaminocarbonylamino optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (a), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aryl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d), aralkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from ~~substituted (d),~~ substituent (d), or heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (d);

substituent (a) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, or lower alkoxy,

substituent (c) independently represents hydroxy, or halogen;

substituent (d) independently represents hydroxy, cyano, halogen, lower alkyl, or lower alkoxy;

substituent (e) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyl, aroyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxyimino, lower alkoxyimino, or -$NR^{14}R^{15}$ (wherein $R^{14}$ and $R^{15}$ independently represent a hydrogen atom, lower alkyl, lower alkanoyl or heterocyclic-alkyl); and

substituent (f) independently represents hydroxy, halogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkanoyl, aroyl, lower ~~alkoxycarbonoyl,~~ alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, or cyano}

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to claim 12, wherein $R^{2A}$ is phenyl substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to claim 12, wherein $R^{2A}$ is phenyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are the same and are a hydrogen atom, lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), aroyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower

alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), di-lower alkylaminocarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or heterocyclic-carbonyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein $R^{3A}$ and $R^{5A}$ are hydrogen atoms, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Original) The benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to any of claims 12 to 14 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 19-43 (Cancelled).

44. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to claim 16, wherein $R^{6A}$ is halogen, lower alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), or lower alkanoyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, and

$R^{1A}$ is hydroxy, carboxy, lower alkyl substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (A), cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), lower alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (B), heterocyclic-alkyl optionally substituted with one to three groups selected from substituent (C), a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), $-CONR^7R^8$, $-NR^9R^{10}$, or $-OR^{13}$, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, and

$R^{1A}$ is a heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

47. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to claim 44, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5, and

$R^{1A}$ is an alicyclic heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. (Currently Amended) The benzene derivative according to claim 16, wherein nA is an integer of 1 to 5,

$R^{6A}$ is ethyl, or acetyl, and

$R^{1A}$ is an alicyclic heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one to four groups selected from substituent (D), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

49. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

50. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

51. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 17 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 44 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

53. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 45 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

54. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 46 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

55. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 47 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

56. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzene derivative according to claim 48 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.